THE HINDOO PATRIOT

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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 2ND JUNE.

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM has been received by the *Indian Daily News* from Glasgow conveying the decision of the General Assembly of Scotland *anent* the Pigot-Hastie case :

The Hastie party has been decisively defeated in the General Assembly. Mr. Hastie's and Mr. Fish's dismissal by the Foreign Mission Committee has been confirmed, Mr. James Wilson has been reinstated as a Missionary, and Gopal Chandra Laha has been reappointed a licentiate.

It is doubtful whether any appeal will be preferred to the Privy Council by Mr. Hastie after this decision.

THE INDIAN DAILY NEWS contradicts on the best authority the rumour that Lord Kimberley and Lord Ripon might exchange offices.

IT IS stated that the famous hot spring of Sita Koond, at Monghyr, threatens to dry up.

THERE WAS a short Durbar held at the palace of Moorshedabad on the 24th instant, to present His Highness the Nawab Bahadur with a locket containing a miniature of Her Majesty the Queen Empress. Mr. Veasy the Magistrate, in presenting it to His Highness, addressed him in appropriate terms, to which His Highness replied briefly.

AN ATROCIOUS murder was committed in Blackburn's Lane on last Saturday evening. The murdered man was a Chinaman of about 45 years of age, and the murderer, who was immediately apprehended, is also a Chinese.

THE DEATH is announced of Rev. C. Fyfe, for many years Principal Free Church Institution. He was much esteemed by his pupils.

ONE of the latest instances of *suttee* is mentioned in the report of the political administration of the Rajpootana States for 1882-83. It occurred in October, 1882, in the Duni district of Jeypore, the woman burned being a Thakoor's widow. The Jeypore durbar had those implicated in the ceremoney arrested and tried, and the persons chiefly concerned were sentenced to seven years' rigorous imprisonment, others getting off with three years.

ACCORDING to trustworthy news-letters, a sad affair has happened at Cabul. The Ameer Abdur Rahman has arrested Mustaufi Mahomed Hussain Khan and imprisoned him. On hearing the news, the Mustaufi's wife and son committed suicide. The son shot himself; and the woman threw herself from the top of a house.

TUESDAY, 3RD JUNE.

THE INDIAN WITNESS pays the following graceful compliment to Dr. George Smith :

Whittaker's Almanac is not a greater marvel of condensation than A Short History of Christian Missions, by India's greatest lay missionary, Dr. George Smith. The book is just out, being the latest of the Edinburgh Handbooks for Bible Classes and Private Students. It is the greatest triumph of the author's scholarship, for it is not a compilation, as the title might lead one to expect, but an original production of a vigorous mind. The solitary track begun by Abraham is traced through the ages as it grew into the crowded highway of modern missions. The dawn of light in the wilds of Europe, the smouldering embers of the Middle Ages, the blaze of the Reformation, and the conflagration of missionary enterprize, are well described. The present spiritual condition of the remotest regions and the smallest spots of the earth is shewn like a panorama on a clear day. Every little missionary undertaking that we are able to think of appears to be duly chronicled, although the lion of the Free Church of Scotland gets its proverbial share of notice and the Indian work of the Methodist Episcopal Church is compressed into Oudh. A specially valuable feature of the book is its well-balanced estimate of the worldly wisdom, the occasional piety, and the inherent corruption of the Church of Rome.

A BULL-FIGHT, which Parisian ladies were organizing in aid of a charity, has been vetoed by the Government.

THE REV. IMAM-UD-DEEN, of the Church Missionary Society, has received the degree of D. D. from the Archbishop of Canterbury. It is the first time a Punjabee has had this degree conferred on him.

THE MUSICAL world has sustained a heavy loss in the death of Sir Michael Costa, which occured last week at Brighton.

THE WRITER of seditious placards posted at Umritsur, which were the cause of much excitement a few weeks ago, when taken before the Deputy Commissioner, stated that he was an *avatar*, or incarnation of the deity, and that he held in his hand three *deotas*, or gods. He has been sentenced to a year's imprisonment.

IT IS estimated that £100,000 will not suffice to make good the losses caused by the recent earthquake in England.

A RANGE of hills, consisting chiefly of fine marble is said to have been discovered near Moulmein.

THE SHAH of Persia is again reported to contemplate a European tour next year, visiting Vienna, St. Petersberg, Berlin, Paris, London, and Constantinople.

THE anniversary of Lord Ripon's local self-government scheme was celebrated with great *eclat* at Surat under the auspices of the *Prajahit Vardhuk Sabha* on the evening of the 18th instant.

THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT recently issued an order that all railway companies in Russia should employ in their service Russian subjects alone. There are many foreigners in the service of these companies and they evaded the difficulty by registering themselves as Russian subjects.

A MOVEMENT is said to be on foot at Simla to withdraw the gratuitous medical attendance and medicines hitherto allowed to the families of clerks of the Secretariat offices at Simla. Who is the author of this benevolent suggestion?

WEDNESDAY, 4TH JUNE.

THE COURT of Cassation at Turin has rejected the application of Miss Lydia Post to be inscribed in the College of the Order of Advocates on the ground that feminine modesty renders women incapable of avocating the interest of private persons and that it does not appertain to women to assume the functions of men.

THERE HAS been a little difference of opinion between the Government of India and the Government of the North-western Provinces. The Supreme Government desired that the local authorities should report to it for sanction all remissions of revenue, but Sir Alfred Lyall at once declared that this was an attempt to interfere with his duties, and that compliance would result in causing his Government to lose prestige, besides having a direct tendency to introduce an element of doubt and confusion into his administration. We are not told how the matter has ended.

THE STATESMAN has received the following telegram from Bombay :

Bombay, June 2.—Doubts are entertained whether an Exhibition will be held at Bombay after all next year. Although the guarantee fund has been liberally supported by local magnates and the public, the expectations of the Exhibition Committee as to the measure of assistance to be looked for from the Government have not been realised, and it is feared that the expense of constructing the buildings according to the present plans will be prohibitive. It was proposed to build some courts with sleepers and other railway material, which Government might afterwards purchase at 75 per cent of their original cost for utilization in public works, but the Government have declined to do this. The proposal has, however, once more been pressed on the Government, and a meeting of the Exhibition Committee will be held on Friday to discuss the subject.

WE GLADLY reproduce the following telegram from the same source:

Lady Ripon has contributed Rs. 1,000 to a prize fund of the proposed High School for native girls in the Deccan, and Sir William Wedderburn Rs. 10,000 towards the same object.

ANOTHER COOLIE woman has been killed by a planter in Assam. The *Statesman* has received the following telegram on the subject :

Golaghat, June 2.—An unfortunate case has occurred here. Mr. Francis, a planter of the Doigorung Tea estate, reported that a coolie woman had committed suicide by taking opium. The evidence, however, seems to show that Francis kicked the woman on the day, the night of which she died in consequence of this assault. He is said to have struck the woman at the instigation of a coolie woman who lives with him as his wife. No trace of opium was found in the *post mortem* examination, and death is supposed to be due to violence. Francis is charged with having caused grievous hurt, and undergoing trial under section 325. The case is adjourned to the 28th, the accused being out on bail.

THE FOLLOWING remarkable paragraph appears in the Hyderabad *Telegraph* :

Buried Alive.—Sometime ago we alluded to a man in Kotha Bustee having been buried alive by his co-religionists; he was exhumed yesterday, after having been in the tomb for forty days; on being brought to the surface, he appeared to be none the worse for the incarceration, except having a slight weakness in the joints of the legs. There were some 500 or 600 persons present, having assembled to witness the ceremony of his exhumation. This licks Dr. Tanner and others to fits. Here, in this country, we have no special scientific machinery nor Liebig's extract of meat conveniently at hand for the support of this individual, and he has evidently found out some other method. Any who are curious in the matter may see the man at the back of Maulvie Mahamed Siddick's house, Kotha-Bustee.—*Hydarabad Telegraph.*

MR. JUSTICE PIGOT on the license of the bar :

Hart *vs* Hart.—Yesterday judgment was delivered in the case of Hart *vs* Hart and Alston, by Mr. Justice Pigot. The Court found that the charge of adultery was established and that the offence had not been condoned by the petitioner in any way, adding that the adverse light attempted to be cast upon the conduct of the petitioner in this respect by the evidence of a witness, was in a great measure accounted for by the fact that he was a friend of the co-respondent. Commenting on the cross-examination of the petitioner, his lordship thought that it had been far more searching than was desirable in such cases. Though the Court had the power to stop such rigorous examination, yet it sometimes did not exercise it, relying on the discretion and moderation of the bar to render such restriction unnecessary, as it was very probable that evidence which seemed irrelevant at a particular stage, might develop into importance subsequently, as opening out a particular view of a client's case. But the cross-examination in this instance had been void of such merit, and only tended to remove the veil of privacy from the inner life of the petitioner harassing him unnecessarily. The Court held that the petitioner's conduct had been commendable all through, and that he was entitled to the relief prayed for. There would, therefore, be a decree for dissolution of the marriage. Regarding damages, the peculiar features of the case would be met by an award of Rs. 8,000 for the pain, anxiety, and trouble the petitioner had been put to. The costs to be borne by the co-respondent, with the exception of those for the two first days, on which adjournments had been asked for, in order to enforce the attendance of the witnesses Walsh and Gasper.

We hope the above remarks will not be lost upon the bar.

THE GOVERNMENT of Bombay have appointed the Hon'ble Rao Saheb Vishvanath Mandlik to succeed as Government Pleader, Bombay High Court, vice Mr. Nanabhai Haridas promoted to a seat on the Bench of that Court. The appointment is unexceptionable.

WE HAVE received the following telegrams from the Press Commissioner's office :

The murderers of Lieutenant Dupuis have been discovered and his body has been recovered. He was killed by Yassiuzai Pathans.

On twenty-third May, a severe earthquake destroyed upwards of twenty villages on Keshin Island, many people reported killed. Number yet uncertain, shocks had occurred during three previous days on Persian and Arab coasts but no damage there or to Bassidore reported.

THURSDAY, 5TH JUNE.

THE INDIAN DAILY NEWS is at one with us in demanding a commission of enquiry in connection with the Bengal Tenancy Bill. Our contemporary however excuses Mr. Thompson in the following terms :

But Mr. Thompson has been called upon to submit a review of the land question in the Lower Provinces at a date which leaves him little or no option. As it is, Commissioners have been warned to send in their reports by August 14th; and in order to enable them to do so, the Lieutenant-Governor has, when any necessity arises, postponed the submission of the annual district reports for one month. It is clear, therefore, that Mr. Rivers Thompson is acting under pressure, and that the party in fault is, the party applying that pressure, that is the Government of India. It is now as certain as anything can be that Lord Ripon will go home early next year. It is also certain that he desires to pass the Bengal Tenancy Bill before he leaves India; hence the pressure now put upon the Lieutenant-Governor, answering to the pressure put upon the Select Committee. But the result of the labours of the Select Committee has been shown by the dissents of the minority, and still more remarkably by the letter of the Government of India May 5, that the Government is not in a position to legislate upon the subject inasmuch as it is not in a position to understand the details of the subject with which it has attempted to grapple. We then consider that the *Patriot* is right in harking back to a suggestion of the Lieutenant-Governor last winter, that a roving Commission should be appointed to visit the different parts of the Province and to take evidence as to the relief which may be demanded.

We do not care who is considered responsible for this unseemly haste. The result is all the same.

OUR CONTEMPORARY thus concludes the above article :

The Government of India has probably lost touch of its original ideas. At every stage of the discussion about the Bengal Tenancy Bill it has been convicted of ignorance. There is no clear formulation of the requirements of the country. The Government is legislating on theory and without a clear idea of the grievances and disabilities with which it ought to deal. A Commission, which should ascertain what the zemindars want, and what the ryots need, would probably save the Government from attempting what assumes more and more the character of an agrarian revolution.

We say *ditto*

ON SATURDAY last a European soldier at Poona murdered a native woman with whom he had been intimate, and then shooting a native goldsmith, committed suicide. The weapon used was a revolver.

TWO PATHAN lads have been fined by the Bombay Presidency Magistrate for causing a dynamite explosion.

AS REMARKABLY good tidings had been received from the Balaghaut gold-mine, on the Kolar field, in Mysore, the editor of the *Madras Mail* visited the mine. He says that Captain Bray, the experienced Cornishman in charge of the works, who habitually speaks with reserve as to the prospects, readily admitted that he was on very good and promising stone. Two hundred and fifty tons of such stone were to be crushed as soon as the new machinery is ready—in a few days. The editor had some stone washed, and now expresses the confident opinion that it is yet too soon to declare that gold-mining, conducted by business-men on sound business principles, will not pay well in Southern India.

THE DAMAGE to property by the recent cyclone at Akyab is estimated at Rs. 1,50,00,000. A great many lives have also been lost.

IN ADDITION to having warned the Governor of Herat to resist by force any encroachment upon Afghan territory from the Persian direction, the Ameer has strengthened his relations with the nomad tribes by appointing Azmutullah Khan to be Governor of Panjdeh.

A BALLAST train containing a number of coolies ran down an embankment near the Raiwind station on the Mooltan line. Fifteen coolies were killed outright and fourteen injured.

IT IS stated that consequent upon the recent action of the Ameer in exacting money from traders, the discontent among the trading classes is increasing, and that trade is falling off. The Indian merchants resident in Kabul advise their friends not to go to Kabul, and a number of Lohani traders have resolved to avoid the place in future on their way to Central Asia with Indian merchandise.

IT was decided by the Government of India about two months ago that octroi duty on cattle entering a cantonment for the fulfilment of a Government contract should be refunded by the municipal or cantonment committee on its being certified by the executive commissariat officer that the animals are required for the use of the Government. The same authority has now ruled that slaughter tax on cattle which was intended for the rations of troops shall be refunded to contractors on the production of a certificate as above.

FRIDAY, 6TH JUNE.

THE WORKING of the Experimental Account Office having proved satisfactory, the Government of India in the Military Department propose to form two other similar establishments, one in the Central and the other in the Upper Circle, for adjusting the accounts of the Commissariat Department. The returns which used to be supplied will be greatly reduced and many hands will have to be removed. Here is another instance of the sagacity of the India Government in depriving the poor clerk of his *rooti*.

ELEVEN out of thirteen dacoits, who had of late been *parading themselves in* Augurparah, Baranagar &c. have been arrested at Manicktola, Ooltadingi, Taltolla, Cassipore, Entally and Chitpore, and property to the value of Rs. 1,000 in gold, silver &c. has been recovered from them. This detection will bring rest to the people of the villages of which the dacoits had lately become the terror.

THE SECRETARY of State for India has very recently passed a decision regarding the pay to be drawn by those officers of the staff corps and Indian army, who on completing the term of their regimental commands or vacating their staff appointments on account of age, wish to reside in England to qualify themselves for Colonel's allowance. The pay of the officers who held their commissions before 1868 will not be affected by the new rules as they will receive the same pay at the official rate of exchange which they were allowed to draw when on furlough to England; but those whose services date from that year will not be allowed to enjoy the same rate of exchange, viz, 2 shillings the rupee, which was allowed them in drawing their furlough pay. However, their loss will be amply compensated by the advantages of living at home. The rule is no doubt a tempting one and many will thankfully take advantage of it; but the advantage to the Indian Exchequer will not be great.

IT IS said that Mr. Slagg's question regarding the English Silver duties has nearly brought about a compromise in the shape of compensation to the amount of £ 100,000, to the manufacturers and tradesmen concerned. But we wonder why compensation should be given them at all. The piece-good merchants in India received none when the cotton duties were abolished.

THE BOMBAY civilians have begun to raise the periodic clamour of tardiness of promotion. As things now stand they cannot expect to look forward to officiate as a junior Collector on Rs. 1,500 per month till they have nearly completed the full course of their service. This surely goes very hard against them. Their brethren in Bengal are better off in that respect than they.

SATURDAY, 7TH JUNE.

WE HAVE received the following letter dated the 5th June from our Srikissenpore correspondent:

During the last fortnight the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division gave orders for closing the Jankully breach with all possible haste. But the Public Works authorities having taken time to consider the alternative plans of the work the execution of the Commissioner,s orders has been postponed. The Jankully embankment being situate before a curve of the river Damudah and the large tract of land which it faces being low its construction certainly requires some care and skill. The line of embankment planned by Babu Khetter Mohan Palit during the last winter is decidedly better than the broken line. Still we do not think the broken line was altogether injudicious. Had it not been for the rat holes the embankment could have served the people for decades.

If according to the Commissioner's orders the old line had been reconstructed at a cost of about a thousand rupees it could save the crops on a area of more than 28 square miles. Moreover it is likely that the still existing portions of the embankment which was constructed at a cost of Rs. 10,000 in 1882 will be washed away during the ensuing rains if the breach be not closed or the existing portions be not protected by strong pilings.

As the rains are approaching earth-work will shortly be impossible in the exposed tracts. Now the breach must remain open and the ryots lose their crops and suffer.

The price of rice is daily rising.

THE BANGALORE committee have gone ahead of all other European communities in India replacing the natives as hewers of wood and drawers of water. They are making arrangements to have Eurasian and Anglo Indians as Postmen, cart drivers, Avenue keepers and so forth. Bravo!

WE CONGRATULATE H. H. the Maharaja of Mysore upon the birth of a son and heir to his Highness. Grand preparations, it is said, are being made for the celebration of the happy event.

WHEN M. WORTH, the great French milliner, was asked by the committee of enquiry at Paris the reason for the present depression in his trade, he returned the reply that the reason is to be found in the limited salaries paid to the President of the Republic and to the Ministers. If M. Grevy and his cabinet got more pay, they (being married people) would give more balls and entertainments and if more balls were given their wives and daughters would want more ball-dresses, and the market would look up.

THERE WERE 220 deaths during the week ending 31st May, 1884, of which 33 were from cholera, 15 from small pox, 55 from fevers, 19 from bowel complaints, 3 from accidents and 95 from all other causes.

WE HEAR that a scheme has been sanctioned for the Central Provinces under which the sons of chiefs and of big zemindars will be appointed as Honorary Assistant Commissioners and receive training under their district officers. This is a move in the right direction.

THE LATE DIFFERENCE between the Nepaulis and the Thibetans, has been patched up by the latter agreeing to pay to the former an indemnity of 10 lacks with interest payable in 7 annual instalments.

IN CONSEQUENCE of a serious accident having occurred at a native powder manufactory causing the death of one man and serious injury to two more the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal has been directed to the subject of native powder manufactories in general. For the present His Honor has drawn the attention of the Magistrates to be careful in granting licenses and to see that the building for storage be fire-proof and not situate in a crowded neighbourhood.

THE LONDON DAILY NEWS of the 7th May says:

Mr. A. McArthur will, on Monday next, ask the Under-Secretary for India whether the attention of the Government has been called to a petition, addressed to Lord Ripon by upwards of ten thousand persons in Madras, in which it is alleged that a considerable number of innocent persons have been convicted of alleged complicity in the Salem riots. Mr. McArthur will also ask questions concerning certain correspondence on this subject which passed between a local Magistrate and the Government of Madras.

WE TAKE the following from the London letter of the *Englishman*:

Notwithstanding the preoccupation of the public mind over Gordon and the vote of censure, the controversy over the Bengal Tenancy Bill has been well to the fore this week. The Earl of Carnarvon has taken up the opposition to the Bill; and besides presenting the petition of the London Committee against the Bill, will, I am told, move a resolution in the Lords, condemning it. A long letter against it from Mr. Roper Lethbridge, which appeared in the *Times* last Tuesday, has been reprinted in most of the Conservative papers throughout the country; while all the special organs of the agricultural interests, including even the Radical *Farming World*, Mr. Borlase's supporter in the press—devote this week much space to the discussion. Mr. Lethbridge, in his letter to the *Times*, declares that "full enquiry" is all that is wanted for the rejection of the Bill; and this, I should think, it would be difficult for even Lord Ripon to refuse, after the amount of public interest on the subject that has already been aroused in England.

MR. A. BOROOAH, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Jessore, has been appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector of Noakholly during the absence of Mr. J. A. Hopkins.

A SOCIETY for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has been established at Howrah.

WE BEG to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following publications and periodicals:—1. Archæology in India with special reference to the works of Babu Rajendralala Mitra, by James Fergusson. 2. The Hindu Excelsior Magazine, Vol. 1. No. 1. 3. The Voice of India for May 1884. 4. Final Report of the Duke of Connaught Festivities Fund. 5. Chikitsa Sanmilani—Part II. 6. The Regenerator of Aryavarta. 7. Sakha for June 1884. 8. Reports on the Cawnpore Experimental Farm for 1882. 9. The Anglo-American Typographia for April 1884. 10. Varati for Baisak and Jayst. 11. Trade and Navigation Account of British India for April 1884. 12. Asiatic Society's Journal Vol. LIII, part I, 1884. 13. Theosophist for June 1884. 14. Pravabati, part II. 15. Report of the Alipore Reformatory School for 1883. 16. Annual Report of Dispensaries in the Punjab for 1883. 17. The National Review for April 1884.

THAT ILLUSTRIOUS and benevolent lady Maharani Surnomoye of Cossimbazar has given another proof of her liberality by contributing Rs. 1000 towards the restoration of the Barielly College.

IT APPEARS from the report of Major L. Conway Gordon's evidence before the Select Committee upon Indian Railways that he is inclined to give preference to State Railways over private Companies who, he says, will always try their best to raise a good dividend on their outlay. He is also of opinion that new lines in Nagpore and Bengal and the Jhansi to Cawnpore line should be taken up before others.

THE ENGLISHMAN'S Simla correspondent says that in all probability an Anglo-Russian Commission will proceed next autumn to demarcate the northern frontier of Afghanistan. He further says that it has been definitely settled between the two Governments that the northern frontier line of Afghanistan will be the Oxus as far as Khaja Saleh and will thence proceed in a southernly course to Phul-i-Khatoun on the Hari Rud River.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London, June 2.—The homeward mails, Calcutta 13th Bombay 16th, May, arrived at Brindishi on 31st May. Arrival —Steamer *Thames*.

4.—A railway accident, resulting in five persons being killed and thirty injured, took place near Salisbury yesterday. The cause of the accident was the train leaving the rails and being precipitated into the river Avon.

4.—The death is announced of Lord Claud Hamilton.

5.—Sir Bartle Frere was buried to-day in the crypt of St. Paul's Cathedral. A distinguished assemblage was present at the funeral, including the Duke of Cambridge. The pall bearers included Sir Richard Temple, the Duke of Buckingham Sir Lewis Pelly, and Lord Napier of Magdala.

6.—The House of Commons resumed its sittings last evening after the Whitsuntide recess.

Cairo, June 5.—A report is current here that General Gordon has escaped up the Nile in a steamer from Khartoum. Osman Digma, with seven thousand followers, is preparing to attack Suakim.

St. Petersburg, 4—The Russian Government has not yet come to a decision concerning the offer of submission made to Russia by the Saryk Turkomans.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, JUNE 9, 1884.

THE AMEER OF CABUL'S RELATIONS WITH INDIA.

NOW THAT Russia is at the gates of the outpost of India, a peculiar interest attaches to the relations of the Ameer of Cabul with the Indian Government. The borders of the "Trans Caspian territory" recently annexed by Russia and of the Afghan territory now practically touch each other. Abdur Rahman has not yet been able to reduce the important frontier province of Herat to the orderly and secure condition

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so essential for the protection of Afghanistan. The northern portions of that province are held by Turcoman tribes who own a nominal allegiance to the Ameer. It is likely that these tribes will, sooner or later, come into collision with the Cassack outposts on the Russian frontier. Again, the cession of Sarakhs to the Russian authorities by the Shah of Persia is merely a question of time. Sarakhs lies on the borders of the "Trans-Caspian territory" recently annexed by Russia and close to the north-western frontier of Afghanistan. As to the political and strategical importance of the place there can be no manner of doubt. In the Lords' debate on the annexation of Merv three months ago, the Duke of Argyll observed: "It is perfectly certain that if Russia ever invaded India, she would never send an army, or even a detachment, from the Oxus through Merv. I believe that Russian advance of a serious kind must come through the fertile districts of Persia; it must come by Meshed and Sarakhs, and have the resources of that country." The annexation of Sarakhs by Russia will be a menace to Herat, though of course there is no immediate chance of a Russian army moving upon the latter place.

It is true that the St. Petersburgh Government has always protested and is still protesting that Afghanistan is without the sphere of Russian action and that the Czar has no desire to interfere with Afghanistan. But it is impossible that the new frontier of Russia could long march with that of the Herat Province without trouble ensuing, more especially as the Ameer has not yet been able to reduce that province to submission. We must not also forget that the North-Western frontier of Afghanistan has not yet been definitely demarcated. The recently published Blue-Book on Central Asia contains an important correspondence which passed between the Ameer and the Indian Government on this subject. Nearly a year since Abdur Rahman expressed a wish to be supplied with a document and map shewing the boundaries between Afghanistan and Russia and Persia. In reply the Viceroy informed him that the boundaries of Afghanistan were settled by the British Government with Russia in 1873. "This boundary," said His Excellency," has, however, never been laid down accurately on any map, and the country has not been examined on the spot with that view. No map, therefore, which could be sent to your Highness would show this line of frontier correctly; but I should be glad to be informed what districts Your Highness understands to be described by the words quoted above, and exactly what you consider to be the boundary defined by them." Abdur Rahman's rejoinder is as follows: "I have understood what my northern boundaries are, but I wished and am still wishing to get hold of a map to enable me to have a thorough knowledge of Afghanistan, so I may know the exact limit (point) up to which I should direct my attention, and that I may endeavour to watch my frontier property, and improve my possessions. I have written to the Governor of Balkh to send me a statement, showing the boundaries of his province, viz., every village and hamlet on the border, whether it be Audkhoi or Balkh, so that I may send it for your Excellency's information. I have also written to the Governor of Badakshan to furnish me with a similar statement of the boundaries of Badakshan and Kataghan, *viz*; every village and hamlet, so that I may forward it also to your Excellency." Now, the passages we have just quoted establish beyond the shadow of a doubt that the north-western frontier of Afghanistan has not yet been definitely demarcated. It is true that the boundaries of the country were settled by the British Government with Russia in 1873 but that settlement was not properly carried out. The Viceroy admits that the boundary defined in 1873 has never been laid down accurately on any map, and the country has not been examined on the spot with that view. This admission alone is sufficient to shew that the settlement of 1873 is of no practical value whatever. So long as the north-western frontier of Afghanistan remains undefined and undemarcated Russia may easily find a pretext for encroaching upon Afghan territory.

Afghanistan has been accepted by statesmen of both parties as the out work of India. In the Lord's debate on the annexation of Merv, Lord Kimberley declared that a friendly Afghanistan acting under our influence, would be a bulwork against any possible movements or menaces of Russia. This declaration has naturally directed public attention to the Amir of Cabul's relations with the Indian Government. It is well known that Lord Ripon has not entered into any treaty engagements with the Ameer. Had his Lordship made any treaty with Abdur Rahman, it would have been a grave act of unwisdom. But the policy which the Indian Government has decided to pursue towards Afghanistan is explained in the letter which the Viceroy wrote to the Ameer last year, notifying the grant of the annual subsidy of 12 lakhs. We make the following extract from that important state-paper. "I have always interested myself so much in your Highness' success and have felt so great a desire for the establishment of a strong and friendly Power under your Highness' auspices in Afghanistan, that I have in various occasions gone beyond the determination then communicated to you, and have from time to time aided Your Highness with sums of money and arms, besides devoting some lakhs a year to the support of Afghan refugees and detenues whose presence in Afghanistan is I understand, regarded by your Highness as dangerous to your power. Still my view of the relations to each other of the two countries has throughout been that, in matters of internal policy and finance, India should not seek to interfere with Afghanistan, but should confine herself to the part of a friendly neighbour and ally. On these conditions it would be in accordance with the practice of nations that Afghanistan should regulate her own finance, and bear her own burdens, as she has always done heretofore. As regards matters of external policy, your Highness was informed in the communication from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 20th July 1880, and again in my letter of the 22nd February 1883, that if any foreign Power should attempt to interfere in Afghanistan, and if such interference should lead to unprovoked aggression in the dominions of your Highness, in that event the British Government would be prepared to aid you to such extent and in such manner as might appear to the British Government necessary in repelling it; provided that your Highness follows unreservedly the advice of the British Government in regard to your external relations." So far, so good. It is true that a strong and friendly Afghanistan would offer a steady resistance to Russia. But it should be carefully borne in mind that Abdur Rahman was for many years under Russian influence and he has shown well-marked Russian leanings. It is also very doubtful whether the Ameer, even with the pecuniary assistance which has been granted to him by the British Government will be able to reduce Herat to order and secure condition so essential for the protection of Afghanistan. In these circumstances, it would be the height of folly to place too much reliance on Abdur Rahman's assurances of good faith and loyalty to the British Government. And even if he were thoroughly loyal, he would not be able to keep in check the Turcoman tribes who hold the northern portions of the Herat Province and who own a nominal allegiance to her. It would be a great mistake to rely upon the good faith and personal character of AbdurRahman as affording a guarantee for a strong and friendly Government in Afghanistan. The British Government as we have suggested before, should clearly lay down that any aggression on the part of Russia directed against England with a *casus belli* will be followed by declaration of war. This is the only means of preventing Russian encroachment upon Afghan territory.

THE TIMES ON THE TENANCY BILL.

THE Thunderer has launched his bolt on the devoted heads of the zemindars of Bengal and Behar; and it has gone home as best it could. There is some thing however in the ring of the shaft which has raised doubts as to whether it is Jove's own or the handiwork of some Indian Vulcan smuggled into Printing House Square. Any how the wrath divine is utterly misplaced, and wholly impotent.

The article seeks to vindicate the Government of India from the charge of precipetancy in the elaboration of the Tenancy Bill, and says that it has been in course of construction for years. It is true that the project for legislation to amend the law of landlord and tenant has been entertained for a great length of time, but what the Zemindars complained of was that the present provisions of the Bill have been drafted without enquiry and with undue haste. Mr. Ilbert's Bill was introduced in March last year. In November following it was referred to a Select Committee. Between the introduction of the Bill and the commencement of the Calcutta Sessions of the Indian Legislative Council nothing was done, the real work of elaboration therefore commenced in the latter part of November and was finished about the middle of March last, or within a period of 15 weeks. Now considering the revolutionary nature of the changes introduced by the Bill, considering that the Bill as introduced by Mr. Ilbert, differed materially from the Bill as framed by the rent Commission, and in view of the fact that the amendments made by the Select Committee flew at a tangent as regards some of the most material provisions from the original draft and its successive transformations, it is quite evident that the Bill as it now stands has been hurried into forced and premature birth.

The *Times* observes that the mischief which called for legislative remedy has been too firmly established to be capable of denial; it then appeals to Mr. Ilberts' speech and to certain official reports and holds it proved that the landholders of Bengal and Behar have unjustly raised the rents of their tenantry and have been guilty of other acts of oppression towards them. A sober appeal to facts may perhaps convince impartial people who are anxious to form a correct opinion. The reports of the administration of civil justice disclose the fact that the total number of enhancement and abatement of rent cases for the 42 Districts of Bengal and Behar between 1875 and 1881 or a period of 7 years, was 15,701 which gives an average of 373·83 nearly for each District for 7 years or a little more than 51 cases for each year, and taking enhancement cases to be half of the total number we have about 186·5 enhancement cases per District. Do these figures shew any abnormal strain in the relations between landlord and tenant in this part of India? Will the *Times* make a calculation and enlighten the world as to how many tenants in each estate have been subjected to increase of rent, even taking the whole tenantry to be 10,000,000 those subjected to judicial increase of rent per year have been about 2243 that is to say there has been one enhancement case amongst every 4458 tenants and can it possibly be believed that while such has been the state of facts as exhibited by forensic statistics enhancement should have gone on *en masse* out of court? If there has been such a result would not official enquiry be able to place it beyond the pale of controversy? The fact is that the advocates of the Bill are afraid to investigate the relations between landlord and tenant and simply try to throw dust into the eyes of the public by instituting sentimental analogies between the circumstances of this country and those of Ireland. Over and over again has the voice of complaint on the part of the landholders been heard to say judge us not without a trial and without an investigation, take evidence, examine witnesses, obtain information and collect facts and then, and not till then, form your conclusions; but the tide of theory and the strong current of sentimental socialism have flowed on in their unabated fury, and have never stopped to be controlled by reason or to yield to protest. In the sweeping resentment which seems to possess the partisans of the peasant for the hour, fairness is forgotten and justice has been a thing of the past. Witness the clever clap-trap which the writer in the *Times* has recourse to, to destroy the sympathy of public opinion in England on behalf of the land holders. He says that the latter have forfeited all claim to sympathy because it is they who agitated for the Ilbert Bill. Not an inconsiderable portion of the native press accused the zemindars of treachery to their country's

cause because it was said they had entered into an unholy alliance with their Anglo-Indian fellow landholders and grew lukewarm over the agitation which that unfortunate measure so unhappily produced. Between our native contemporaries and those whose opinions the *Times* professes to reflect in its columns the zemindars have a hard time of it, they were lately charged with apathy in the matter of the Ilbert Bill and therefore regarded as just victims at the hands of an indignant legislature and now we dare say by equally good logic they are indicted for the strongest sympathy with the Bill and therefore fit to be hanged, drawn and quartered at the hands of the same legislature. Perhaps if the article in the *Times* be accepted as the matured verdict returned by the conscience of the liberal Government it may place in a new light the honesty of that party which has been posing before the world as the pattern of political virtue, but we will not dwell unduly long on this point; we shall only remark that when the *Times* mischievously misrepresents the agitation against the land Bill as the sole work of a section of the native community it does violence to truth and sins against facts. The opposition to the Bill is composed not only of the native landholders but of that large section of the European community in India which is interested in land. But suppose it were otherwise, suppose that the landholders of Bengal were all natives of the country, would they be unworthy of British sympathy because they had the hardihood to call upon the legislature to sweep away all distinctions between the white Judge and black in the administration of justice. The Zemindars of Bengal know when to be true to themselves and to their country, but we will not revive the dead past, nor light the classed faggots that slumber in ashes, Saxon or Celt, Indian or European. All who own land in this country are threatened with a common danger, and in the union which that danger will assuredly produce lies the best assurance that in the defence of the common cause they shall all be inspired by but one sentiment, one soul and one heart.

PROFESSOR GOLDWIN SMITH ON INDIA.

THE April number of the *Contemporary Review* contains a masterly article on the Expansion of England, from the pen of Professor Goldwin Smith. The object of the paper is to discuss the advantages and disadvantages which England derives from her connection with her colonies and dependencies. The learned Professor holds that England's dominions over which the sun never sets were thrust upon her by circumstances over which she had no control. We will here notice only that portion of the article which has reference to India. Professor Goldwin Smith has the following in reference to the acquisition of India by England:—"No series of events could be less visibly connected with the main policy of the national Government than the foundation of the British Empire in India. The Company was chartered for a mercantile object, while its first acquisitions of territory were almost clandestine and depended on the coincidence of its territorial establishment in India with the dissolution of the Mogul Empire. English character appeared in these achievements, but not the purpose of the English Government, or the aspirations of the English people. The extension of the Empire in India has been almost wholly undesigned. The Government has always been fixing a limit, but has been drawn beyond it by collisions with barbarous powers, till the collision with the Sikhs brought on the annexation of the Punjab." Mr. Seymour Keay, in his second article on the spoliation of India, has conclusively shown that the first acquisitions of territory both in Bengal and Madras were effected by treachery, and that, as a matter of fact, England became possessed of the bulk of her Indian dominions by breach of faith with the Native powers. It is all very well to say that England had no design in the establishment of her Asiatic Empire, which was thrust upon her by circumstances over which she had no control. But the stern fact remains that province after province was annexed by breach of faith with the Native powers. Nagpore, Sattara and Jhansi were incorporated with British territory by the invention of the iniquitous doctrine of "lapse." Punjab was acquired on the pretext that the Lahore State had been at war with the British Government. Berar was extorted from the Nizam of Hyderabad on the pretext of an alleged debt and to support a military which had been imposed on him in direct breach of treaty. Oudh was annexed on the specious plea that higher morality cancelled the lower—that the good of the subject millions out-weighed the wrong to the Native prince. We wonder how in the teeth of these incontestible facts, a well-informed and sensible man like Professor Goldwin Smith could assert that the acquisition of India was thrust upon England by circumstances over which she had no control. No such plea can possibly carry any weight with Orientals. They have seen how England annexed province after province either by disastrous war or by breach of faith with the Native powers. They will not accept any explanation of these annexations. Professor Goldwin Smith, it is only fair to say, implies that England acquired the bulk of her Indian Empire by crime when he tells us that it is needless to discuss her moral title to her Indian possessions. The simple truth is, that this title cannot bear an examination.

Professor Goldwin Smith fairly weighs the advantages and disadvantages which England derives from her Indian Empire. He rightly holds that by whatever means the Empire was acquired, England cannot now withdraw from India. He observes:—"Of withdrawal, at all events, nobody now thinks. Not only would immense investment and a vast field of action be lost, but the country would be delivered over to a plundering anarchy. In the British Provinces there would be left no germ of Government or rallying point of order. The cultivated Bengalee with his aspirations and his Ilbert Bill is a child of the conquest, and would become extinct on the morrow of withdrawal. It would not be to the purpose therefore here to attempt the difficult task of striking the balance between the good and the evil of the connection, either as regards the imperial or subject people. England has to lay in one scale grandeur, true or false, a field of action for her youth, salaries and pensions, profitable investments, secure free trade with the two hundred millions, payment of a portion of her army, and the addition of the Sepoys, whatever it may be worth to her military power. In the other scale she has to lay the perils and responsibilities of distant Empire, deplomatic embarrassments, wars with Russia, increased naval expenditure, and, in addition to these, the sinister influence of empire on freedom of dealings with barbarism on civilisation, of such works as the massacre of the mutineers on the moral character of the British nation," "The withdrawal of the English from India would be the greatest misfortune that could possibly befal this country. It is the mission of England to raise India from the torpor of ages and to make her fit for Self-Government. England should not think of withdrawing from India until her noble mission has been fulfilled. Her departure would be followed either by universal anarchy or to the establishment of another foreign rule; and we may rest assured that we have everything to lose and nothing to gain by a change of masters. If England has done nothing for India she has saved her from war and plunder. Peace and tranquility now prevails throughout the length and breadth of the Indian continent; and this is an inestimable blessing for which we cannot adequately express our obligations to the British Government.

We do not overlook the numerous benefits which British rule has conferred upon this country. But it cannot be said that her connection with England has proved an unmixed blessing to India. After mentioning the good which British rule has done for India, Professor Goldwin Smith goes on to say:—"On the other hand, the ruler is an undomicilable alien, divided by a gulf of sentiment, as well as of race and language, from the subject millions; he alights, but he does not settle; he settles less than ever now that communication with his home has become rapid; whatever he accumulates he carries away; nor can he divest himself of the insolence of the conqueror, always greatest in the lowest grades. Taxation is heavy . . . The ryot has to bear the cost of an army of occupation on double pay, a civil service with salaries at exile rate, the drain of pensions and the expense of European administration. The civilisation produced among the millions is not that of a nation but that of a flock of sheep, all tended and sheared alike. Native character, thought, energy, art, whatever they may be worth, perish; there will be no other Taj Mahal. It seems that on the whole the people prefer a native dynasty, with its barbarisms and its fits of tyranny, to the British rule with its civilisation and beneficence. Native dynasties under British control are restrained from excesses of misrule but they are guaranteed against revolutions, the rough remedy of the East for insufferable incapacity and oppression. Never was an attempt made on so grand a scale or so much in earnest to wed conquest with beneficence. The result our grand children will know, if the Empire last so long." We commend these thoughtful observations to the optimists who would have the world believe that nothing but unalleged good is the result of British rule in India. Professor Goldwin Smith has formed a fairly correct estimate of the character and effects of the system of English administration. He points out that two dangers threaten British rule in India—financial deficit and spirit of the European community which fancies that it can indulge in ascendancy and enjoy the liberty of lording it over the Native. Well does the learned Professor remark that the East India Company acted wisely in discouraging European Settlement, and that of all tyrannies in India the tyranny of a small British community would be the worst. The dangers pointed out are real, but they can be averted by the Government pursuing a wise and just policy in all matters. If England governs India with a single eye to the welfare of her teeming millions no danger can threaten the continuance of British rule in this country. The existing heavy taxation can be materially reduced and financial deficits altogether extinguished by carrying out impartially and vigorously a policy of retrenchment and reform such as we have always advocated in these columns.

THE BENGAL LETTER FURTHER CONSIDERED.

WE HAVE already given our opinion on the Bengal Government's plan of conference on the Tenancy Bill. We will now consider the instructions in detail. Opinions are invited, enquiries suggested and informations asked about its most salient provisions. It would have been more in accordance with established practice in such cases if this process had been gone through before the Bill was introduced into Council. The Government would then have been in a position to know precisely the local conditions of Bengal and Behar and the extent to which they could be met by a legislative remedy; but now the Bill is fully developed and thoroughly constructed and if now its authors or advocates seek official testimony in respect to its debatable features such a course is open to the remark that it is like an endeavour to collect evidence in support of a prosecution after a return of a verdict of guilty on a criminal charge. Considering that it has been mainly inspired if not entirely composed by the Government of Bengal, and remembering the strong sympathies which it has evoked from those who constitute the official *entourage* of that Government, it is almost hopeless to expect any thing like a fair summing up of the case, a just exposition of both sides of the controversy from the Bengal Secretariat; in fact in more places than one the *prejuge* of the partisan is openly betrayed: for instance in para 6 of the letter alluding to the presumption about the uniform payment of rent for 20 years embodied in section 64 of the Bill, Mr. Secretary MacDonnell writes "this presumption is perhaps one of the most valuable provisions which the Bill contains in the interest of the ryots, *it is a reasonable presumption inasmuch*

as if it be contrary to the facts it throws on the landlord no greater burden of proof than in ordinary cases he should easily be able to discharge." We doubt very much whether after this expression of opinion from the head of the local administration there would be found in the official answers to the letter any strong enunciation of an adverse view. Take again the important subject connected with the definition of a settled ryot. Clause 2 of Section 26 of the Bill says that if it is proved or admitted that a person holds land as a ryot, it shall as between him and his landlord be presumed that he has held it for 12 years until the contrary is shown. On a point so diametrically opposed to the present state of the law and so startling in its novelty and its injustice not a single question is proposed to be asked to the official experts; on the contrary the Secretary reminds the Commissioners that "the definition of the settled rayat" of which the presumption we have just alluded to is the most vital ingredient —"the definition of the settled rayat is not now open to general discussion" but it will be tedious to multiply instances.

We are glad to observe that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor invites discussion with regard to that very vexed question, the expediency of the distinction as made by the Bill between the tenure-holder and the occupancy rayat, and its probable effect on the rural economy, of the country. It is clear as noon-day that if occupancy tenants be clothed with the power of alienation, their tenures will inevitably gravitate in the near future to the powerful class of money-lenders; this is admitted, "it is recognised" says the letter "that the formal recognition by the Bill of the transferability of occupancy rights may tend to the purchase of such rights by money-lenders (whom it is not the wish or object of the Government to benefit at the rayats expense) and consequently to the rack-renting of the cultivators holding under such purchasers." Then it is explained that section 37 of the Bill was introduced to secure that object but as the Select Committee had apparently declined to accept the Lieutenant-Governor's view as to the principle of equality between occupancy and non-occupancy rates of rent and to the adequate enforcement of that principle as an efficient safeguard against recovery of higher rate of rent by the purchaser of an occupancy right from his under-tenants than he himself pays, a serious difficulty has arisen and the whole subject of the transferability of these rights and as to how such rights could be limited to the actual cultivators is to be carefully considered. It has always seemed to us that no device the legislature could ever frame would be sufficient to prevent occupancy rights falling into the hands of the money-lenders if such rights be made transferable. In the first place it will be a most difficult question to decide as to who would be a money-lender so as to come fairly within the ban which the Government wishes to proclaim. In every district most of the well-to-do ryots themselves are small bankers and it will be simply impossible to work any law which would really include them and exclude pure money-lenders unconnected with the peasantry of the country. As the British Indian Association pointed out, it would be a grievous wrong to the interests of agriculture if a man be disqualified to contribute his capital for the improvement of land on the sole ground that he has been more thrifty than his neighbours; a ryot may save a few rupees or a few bushels of paddy, may lend them out and thus gradually attain the dignity and the position of village Mahajan, but he is no more nor less than a member and an important member of the little agricultural community whose respect and confidence he enjoys. Would the Government of Bengal classify him in the same category with the astute Bhojpuria or the shrewd Maroari who is clothed with the associations which darkly cluster around the exacting usurer, the hated Shylock and the unpopular Jew of rural Bengal? If you adopt a pecuniary standard of classification you fail miserably to eliminate those who are fit to be eliminated, and if you adopt a standard of nationality you simply render yourself ridiculous. The truth is the population of Bengal is composed of elements which widely vary in their character, a motely group of divergent races and creeds meets your eye in every instance, and whenever you attempt to confine your legislative privileges to an artificially created class the circumstances of the country baffle your impotent efforts and smile at your presumption.

If the Government is convinced that the moment the power of sale is conceded to occupancy ryots that power will be abused and occupancy rights shall pass to those who are deemed to be beyond the pale of protection, better far would it be in the interests of the ryots themselves not to make the concession at all. If it is admitted that the tenants of Bengal are deplorably lacking in foresight and sadly disposed to borrow, then to place facilities whereby their inclinations in this respect can be successfully carried out would be the most unwise of measures. Already has the voice of experience warned the Government of the fate which is likely to overtake a hasty concession when made to an improvident race. Never were brighter hopes of success entertained than when free sale was proclaimed as the rayat's right throughout the length and the breadth of Santhalia in 1872, yet scarcely have 12 years gone by when the Deputy Commissioner of that district has been compelled by dire exigency to issue an imperative order lately prohibiting sale of rayati lands. It has been found that the professional money-lender was abroad, and that year by year he was obtaining a firmer and firmer grip on the cultivators of that part of the country. What guarantee is there that a similar result will not follow in the more fertile plains of the southern regions, but we have already exceeded the limits of an article and will stop here for the present.

INDIGO ZERATS IN BEHAR.

THE *Indian Daily News* publishes a letter from the Government of Bengal to the Commissioner of the Patna Division in which the question of Indigo Zerats in Behar is fully and ably discussed. We will not go into the facts of the particular case mentioned, but we will confine ourselves to the general question. We will reproduce here the remarks of Mr. Secretary MacDonnell on the subject:

Turning now to the more general aspect of the questions raised, the Lieutenant-Governor regrets to find that in indigo districts in Behar, the practice of turning royti land into so-called zerat, or *khamar* or *nij-jote* under colour of thika leases, is still prevalent. Many improvements in the system of cultivating indigo have been introduced into Behar under the auspices of the Indigo Planters' Association; but this system of converting ryoti land into zerat, of which possession is retained by the planter and ultimately by the proprietor to the detriment of the ryot, is a most serious abuse, against which Sir Ashley Eden, so long as 1877, protested in the unofficial communication to the then Commissioner of Patna, which preceded the formation of the Planters' Association. To the extinction of this abuse, the Lieutenant-Governor earnestly trusts that both the Association and the executive officers of Government will devote their best efforts. In the particular case under notice, it does not appear that the manager of the factory *forcibly* converted these lands into zerat; but the Lieutenant-Governor, from this correspondence, as well as from other sources of information, has reason to fear that the consent of ryots is not often an ingredient in the procedure of acquiring lands for indigo in villages leased out to factories. It is true that the Planters' Association has resolved—and the Lieutenant-Governor has noticed the resolution with special satisfaction—not to countenance the acquisition of lands for indigo, except under the written consent of the ryot, and with specific conditions as to continuance of, and termination of, the contract. Adherence to that resolution will no doubt obviate many of the abuses inherent in the present system, but it would seem from this case, and from the 10th paragraph of the Collector's letter of 27th November, that the resolution of the Association has not yet been made a rule of action by planters generally. In the provisions of the Tenancy Bill, which enable the occupancy ryot to sublet, the planter will find an additional method of obtaining the land which he wants, while preserving intact the ryot's right to hold it, and while compensating him, which is certainly a necessary and reasonable condition, for its temporary loss. But until that provision becomes law, the Lieutenant-Governor would be very glad indeed to find that the resolution of the Association, to which, in the last paragraph of your note of 22nd November, you refer, had gained a general adherence from all indigo planters in the Province. At all events, the forcible acquisition of lands under colour of thika leases is an illegality and an injustice to the people regarding which it is impossible to be silent, and the Lieutenant Governor, therefore, looks to you, and to the District Officers of your division, to give your active support to the Planter's Association in suppressing such illegalities by all legal means. The Association's rule, which provides for the interchange of written agreements as evidence of such consent, would simplify and facilitate proceedings for the suppression of such illegalities.

The Indigo Zerats in Behar are undoubtedly based on a vicious system, but the practice is due more to official supineness than to any thing else. If the officials of Behar had checked the growth of this system, it could not have spread its root and branch. There is indigo cultivation in Bengal, but we have never heard any dispute regarding the conversion of *ryoti* land into *nij jote* or *khamar* by the planter or the zemindar. Mr. MacDonnell continues:

No doubt it has been, and still is, to the advantage of proprietors in Behar to look without disfavour on this practice of converting ryoti into so-called Zerat lands; and herein, as this case very clearly shows, the objects of Zamindars have been to acquire possession of the lands after the termination of the planter's lease, and to treat them afterwords as *khamar* or *nij jote* or demense land, in dealing with which the landlord's power is much less fettered by the law than it is in the case of ryoti land. It is very obvious, however, to the Lieutenant-Governor that indigo Zerats, constituted in the manner of which this case furnishes an example, are clearly distinguishable from *khamar* or *nij-jote* or demense lands; and that they cannot be confounded with *khamar* or *nij jote* lands without inflicting a serious injury on the cultivating classes throughout these provinces. The test or criterion of the *khamar* or *nij jote* lands is cultivation, or holding for cultivation, by the owner, either directly or by means of hired labour. These indigo zerats fail altogether to fulfil the requisite conditions of that definition; and the sooner it is recognised by proprietors generally that the forcible acquistion of ryoti lands by thikadars will not avail *per se* to convert them into *khamar* or *nij-jote*, the greater chance will there be of the abandonment of a custom which has done, and if not suppressed, is likely to do, much harm to the country. The Lieutenant-Governor will take an early opportunity of representing these views to the Government of India with the object of having them affirmed in the Tenancy Bill now before the Legislative Council.—I have, &c.,

This question suggests another important question. If the planters be enabled to buy out the occupancy holdings, they will not care to convert *ryoti* lands into Zerats. Anyhow they want the ryot's land, and let Mr. MacDonnell ponder over that.

MR. HUGHES ON THE CIVIL SERVICE QUESTION.

IN his excellent letter to the *Times* Mr. Thomas Hughes an ex-M. P. has called the attention of the British public to the injustice that has been done to the natives of India by reducing the age of the candidates to 19 years—a step which practically closes the door of the Covenanted Civil Service to them. His advocacy of India's cause proceeds from his anxiety to maintain his country's honour and to save it from the obloquy of a breach of the plighted faith of the Crown and Parliament. He urges that this question should draw the particular attention of the English people, and says:

If any one doubts whether this can be fairly placed in the category of vital questions, I would only ask whether he thinks that the future of England is inseparably bound up with that of India. If he cannot deny this, as I think no serious English politician will be inclined to do, then surely the method by which the governing class of that vast Empire (I regret to be obliged to use the word) are sifted out but must at once take its place in the first rank of national problems.

He next enlarges on the two very healthy and important results of the Proclamation viz., (1) the institution of Colleges and Universities in India and (2) throwing open the Covenanted Civil Service to the natives. With regard to the

first he says that there has been no alteration in the policy of either the Home Government or the Government of India; but in respect of the second a sad and grievous mistake has been committed by both of them. After explaining the constitution of the service when it was first created in 1854 and when the limit of age was fixed at 22 years, he says that the gradual lessening of the age limit to 21 in 1866 and to 19 in 1876 has seriously affected the standard of ability of the candidates by debarring the Universities in England from sending up youths of tolerably mature intellect. India, though a loser in other respects, did not gramble at the reduction of the age limit in 1866, as the door was not then entirely closed to such of her children who could make up their minds to compete for it. But the coup-d-etat of 1876 has blasted all her hopes and we cannot do better than to give in the writer's own words an account of the sad predicament in which she has been placed by it.

The limit of 21 lasted for ten years, when the age was again reduced—from 21 to 19. Again the result in England has been to diminish the number of candidates from the Universities almost by one-half; while it would seem to have absolutely closed the Covenanted Civil Service to Natives. At any rate not a single candidate from India has been successful since 1876. From that time great bitterness has been felt in India on this subject. A widespread belief has grown up, natural enough, surely, though, I hope and incline to believe unfounded—that the lower age of 19 was fixed upon for the express purpose of fically excluding Natives from the Covenanted Civil Service. How dangerous such a belief may become when entertained by the numerous and rapidly-growing class who have passed through the Indian Colleges and are now controlling the Native Press, filling the professions, and influencing the trade of India, it is surely scarcely necessary to point out. During last autumn this discontent found voice. A proposal for restoring the old limit of 21 came before the Viceroy and his Council, and a decision was come to that the time was not favorable for re-opening the question. No one who followed the fortunes of the Ilbert Bill can doubt that they were right. While the great meetings in Calcutta and elsewhere were being held (the reports of which, I must own, made me tingle with shame to my finger ends as I compared the tone and arguments of the Anglo-Indian and Native Indian speakers) it would have only added fuel to the fire to have pressed for the fulfilment of England's plighted word to the educated Native. Now, however, we may hope that that melancholy page of Indian history has been turned. But whether this be so or not, our educated fellow-subjects in India have at last appealed to the Government at home to reconsider the resolution of 1876, and so make it possible for their young men once more to come to England and compete—on terms which make success impossible except to those of rare intellectual gifts, and still rarer strength of will and tenacity of purpose—for the chance of taking an honorable part in the government of their own country. That appeal has been rejected, if report speaks truly, by the Secretary of State for India in Council; and to my mind a more disastrous conclusion could not have been come to having regard to the present state of affairs in the East not to speak of higher considerations. No one can believe, at least I cannot, that this conclusion is that of Lord Kimberley or of the Government. It must be that of the Indian Council, whom on such a question it is, no doubt, difficult for the Secretary of State to overrule. Who then I would ask, are the Indian Council that they should be able *in camera* to overrule the Parliament of England? Eminent Anglo-Indians, no doubt, who have done good service in their day. But their day was one in which the educated Native was an object of aversion and contempt. They still represent traditions and a policy which resulted in the Mutiny and have never shown sympathy with the new time.

We heartily subscribe to these views.

THE HIGH COURT OF CALCUTTA AND LORD HARTINGTON.

THE High Court Judges have justly taken umbrage at Lord Hartington's characterising their minute on the unfortunate Ilbert Bill as an offspring of partisanship, which possesses no judicial authority whatever. To vindicate themselves and their action against the noble Lord's aspersions they have through their Registrar sent in a justification to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council for laying it before the House of Commons through the Secretary of State for India.

This vindication, the main portion of which we give below, clears up the character of the Judges from the undeserved imputation made upon it:

The letter in question was, as its opening sentence explains, not volunteered by the Judges, but written in answer to one in which the Government of India requested "an expression of the Judges' opinion on the provisions of the Bill." It has been, as His Excellency in Council is aware, the constant practice of Government to consult the High Court on all important measures of legislation; and the judges regard it as among the most important and responsible of their duties to consider such reference with attention, and to offer, either collectively or individually, such advice and assistance to the Government as it is in their power to give. In measures which affect the organisation and procedure of the Courts, the practical enforcement and operation of the law, the amendment of such portions of it, as are found to work harshly or inconveniently, or the codification of such parts of it as it is deemed expedient to codify, it is to the Judges of the High Court, acting, as they ordinarily do, not only on their own experience, but on that of a large number of subordinate tribunals, that the Government must mainly look, and has usually looked, for accurate information and trustworthy guidance.

When the Bill in question, which introduced an important change in the powers of Native Judges and Magistrates in the legal *status* of Europeans in India, was referred to the Judges for opinion, they considered it with the utmost care; and after protracted and anxious deliberation, 11 out of 12 Judges arrived at the conclusions which were expressed to you in my letter. They had, of course, no personal interest in the question, and they were conscious of no desire in connection with it but to offer to the Government, as they were in duty bound to do, with perfect candour and explicitness, their convictions on the subject, and the grounds on which those convictions rested. The Judges considered that, in expressing their opinions as they did, they were but acting in accordance with custom, and responding to an express invitation and the assurance, given in the debate of March 9, that the Government was anxious to consider the arguments adduced on both sides in the discussion. The Judges are not aware that the language of my letter conveying their views, is in any way chargeable with violence, exaggeration, or other evidence of partisanship. It is unnecessary for them to point out that no indication is afforded by the omission in my letter to state the fact that Sir Steuart Bayley was a supporter of the Bill, a fact which was perfectly notorious, and which had no bearing on the argument except in so far as Sir Steuart Bayley's opinion on the point in question was of the more weight as coming from a supporter of the proposed legislation. Lord Hartington appears to have forgotten that the letter was addressed, not to the public, but to the Government of which Sir Steuart Bayley was a member, and which could not be misled by any statement in the letter as to that gentleman's opinion. The Judges cannot but consider that the imputation of partizanship, based apparently on no stronger ground than this, was wholly undeserved and unjustifiable. Their opinion on the Bill was not, from the nature of the case, "invested with judicial authority" in the ordinary sense of that expression; but in so far as it conveyed the opinions of the Judges on a subject of judicial administration, upon the probable effects of which the Judges were in a better position than any one else to arrive at a well-informed opinion—in so far as it was formed deliberately, carefully, conscientiously, after a patient and exact consideration of the facts—in so far as, in offering it, the Judges were not volunteering their advice, but replying, in the regular course, to a question which the Government had a right to ask, and which it was their duty to answer, it was "judicial" in the strictest sense of the word; and they emphatically repudiate the charge that, in writing as they did, they were influenced by any partisan feeling or by any other motive than that of endeavouring to discharge with fidelity one of the important and responsible duties with which they have been intrusted by Her Majesty.

We think too that such imputations detract from the dignity of the HighestCourt of Justice in Bengal and make it look small in the eye of the public. While we regret the part which the High Court took in the Ilbert Bill controversy, we should be the last persons to support any policy of the Government which may have the effect of lowering the dignity of the Court in the estimation of the people.

G

THE AMENDED RENT BILL.

II.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HINDOO PATRIOT.

SIR,—The next class which the Bill deals with is that of occupancy tenants. By a series of curiously constructed definitions, this class has been made so enormously comprehensive that almost the whole of the agricultural population is included in it.

In the first place every cultivator who has acquired a right of occupancy by statutory or customary law or otherwise is an occupancy tenant under sec: 24.

In the next place every tenant who is a settled rayat i. e. a tenant of twelve years' standing, holds any land between the introduction of the Bill and the same when it becomes law, acquires a right of occupancy in respect of that land under the 1st subclause of sec: 25.

In the last place every tenant of twelve years' standing in an Estate, who after the Bill becomes law, holds *any* land in that Estate for *however short a time* is able to clothe himself with that valuable right. Never perhaps has the process of gradual encroachment and progressive spoliation received a more harrowing illustration than in the history of tenant *right* in Bengal and Behar: when the legislature of 1859 fired with fierce zeal operated upon the landlord of that age and created the occupancy tenant out of his ribs, the method was ruthelss enough in its ferocity to startle sober observers accustomed to pay prosaic respect to property; grey headed Judges from the Bench declared that the newly created right derogated from the Zemindars' proprietary right which had been guaranteed by the laws of the land and followed by decades of unquestioned respect; according to them the barest justice required that the tenant should strictly prove the conditions under which such a right could be acquired, twenty-five years have rolled away and the landlord of to-day is again subjected to a various raid.

Before 1859 it was the descendant of the resident tenant of the Permanent Settlement, who under the laws as they then stood, had alone the status of an occupancy tenant. In 1859 the resident and the non-resident cultivator of the post Settlement stratum both became after twelve years a tenant of occupancy and now in 1854 the non-resident cultivator is maintained on the platform; custom is recognized as a second creative force, time as an essence of the right is eliminated and the age of the tenant and not the age of the holding becomes the sole factor of power in the growth of the right.

That these provisions radically diverge from the principles which have hitherto been considered almost axiomatic can not for a single moment be called into question. The rule for twelve years occupancy was, as is well-known, adopted from considerations of supposed analogy to the statute of prescription. Adverse possession for that period was held to create an absolute right in the subject matter of such possession and it was thought that permissive possession as a tenant for an equal length of time might without violence to juridical notions of equity tantamount to fixity of tenure in land held as such; but, Sir, what semblance of equity can there be in the evolution of a fixed tenure in land from the fact that the occupant is a twelve years tenant not in that land but some where else in the estate in which the land is situate; the right of occupancy is individual and not communal; it appeals to our antipathy to the injustice involved in the disturbance of a quiet possession around which time has thrown the charm of a quasi title; if you take away the sentiment the right is at once divested of all its moral support, its very foundation fails, it dies of inanition; no imaginary halo clusters around the brow of a settled rayat; suppose he holds a *katha* of land and builds a hut in an out-skirt of a large estate, upon what principle of justice can it be contended that the moment he ploughs and pays rent for 500 bighas of the finest lands of that estate five or ten miles away from his home that very moment he becomes almost the lord of all he surveys in the wide domains of his new cultivation, where is the ethical raison d'etre of such a right? The only possible answer to this question is a desperate appeal to the imagination; we may be told that the land of every village belongs to the community of that village, that a man by 12 years residence becomes so to say a naturalized villager, that being so naturalized the right attaches to his person as a part of the law of status with respect to every field within its geographical limits. I am sure, Sir, your readers will not fail to observe the series of historical assumptions upon which this theory is built, it is assumed that the village communities of India exist as social and political units up to the present day, it is assumed that the land of the country belongs to these communities and it is assumed that they expand and contract according to the dimensions of modern Estates; but

supposing for a moment this was so I would venture to ask Hon'ble members of the Indian Council to explain on what theory non-resident ryots could acquire a right of occupancy, he might come from a different village, he might come from a different estate, he might be on his land during the cultivating season only or he might not be there at all if he choose to carry on vicarious cultivation; and yet his capacity to acquire a right of occupancy remains wholly untouched by the Bill, in short the Bill displays cross theories and contradictory principles of legislation. The theoretical right of the village community is extinguished to let in the foreign tenant into the body of persons qualified to acquire the right and having admitted the foreign tenant the old fiction of the village community is revived; now, sir, wash the fatal inconsistency of this course. The legislator of 1859 said to the landlord perhaps he could not grudge to grant the khoodkust or resident tenant fixity of tenure, but we shall extend it to the non-resident tenant as well to counterbalance the new concession we introduce in all cases the twelve years rule; a quarter of a century afterwards the successor of the same legislator says to the landlord, my good sir, the poacher is already legalized so that he must be retained any how, it is true we legalized him by persuading you to believe that the right would be restricted to 12 years occupancy only; but what does it matter after all; just observe the beauty of the process by which we resume the old village community, only mark how it becomes infinitely expensive and elastic at our plastic call and how from being a *village* community it grows into an estate community.

But if the landlord has been wronged by the unjust amplification of the definition of the occupancy tenant that wrong has been multiplied thousandfold by the creation of a statutory prescription that the occupation of every tenant is for 12 years. Presumptions are a part of the law of evidence and of the procedure of the courts of justice and the policy of an obligatory rule for their artificial production may be justly doubted, but to compel judges to presume that the occupation of a litigant has been for a particular period of time is grandly novel. Fancy the enactment of a law that in ejectment the defendant's possession shall be presumed to be for 12 years; the inequity of the rule is made more manifest if we remember that it is opposed to the uniform case law which has prevailed on the subject. One of the ablest judges of the Calcutta High Court made the following observations about it referring to the Judge of the Court below. His Lordship says "the Judge says in his judgment in this case I shall always hold that landlord who seeks to eject a tenant is bound to show his title to do so, that may be either a very harmless proposition or a very dangerous one, if he means to say that the landlord is bound to shew his title to the land, he may be correct *but if he means to say that the landlord seeking to eject his tenant must prove the absence of the circumstances which entitle the tenant to retain possession of the land, we differ from him* and we presume that he will not hold that view after receiving this expression of the opinion of this court that he is mistaken. *We have no doubt that a landlord is entitled to eject his tenant after notice unless debarred of the power to do so by certain rights of the tenant of which the right of occupancy is one.*

In the teeth of judicial opinions like these our legislators coolly go on to lay down an imperative rule for the guidance of courts that every tenant is to be presumed to have held for 12 years unless the landlord proves the contrary. How will this rule operate in practice? A tenant migrates to an estate he takes a bit of land without a lease, two years afterwards he goes to another part of the same estate and takes some other lands pertaining thereto; a dispute arises between him and his landlord, he pleads he is a settled rayat and has acquired occupancy rights in his new acquisition, the question arises how long has he been on the estate? According to the Bill the presumption is that he is a settled rayat that is one of 12 years standing and the landlord has to sustain the full brunt of the battle, he has to prove that the tenant has been on the Estate for less than 12 years. In other words he has to prove the absence of circumstances which entitle the tenant to retain possession.

To justify a provision so novel, so opposed to the previous state of the law and so contrary to every principle of fairness: the Select Committee are driven to say in their report "such a presumption appears to us to be warranted by the existing state of things in the Lower Provinces and while it tends to simplify litigation; it is one which the landlord ought to have no difficulty in rebutting in any case in which it does not hold good." Sir, it is given to law-givers to speak in enigmas but at least for the enlightenment of benighted mortals it would have been well if we had been favoured with detailed information about this so called existing state of things. The British Indian Association venture to point out in their memorial of the 3rd of October last that ejectment cases in Bengal and Behar did not come to more than 42 per District during the six years previous to 1880. In fact a challenge might fairly be thrown to the opposition to prove that tenants who had been holding for 12 years were unjustly turned out by their landlords in an appreciably large number of instances or that the ordinary rule under which every tenant who pleaded right of occupancy had to prove it worked disastrously to the interests of justice: but with the fact staring us in the face that there has been but one ejectment case to every 5556 tenants between 1875 and 1880, that our courts are presided by a body of judges strong enough to protect the wronged, that neither the bench nor the public opinion of the country ever formulated a single complaint nor asked for an exceptional procedure on the subject, it is difficult to conceive how the second sub-clause of section 26 ever came to find a place in the Bill.

Yours faithfully

Beerbhoom, 27th May 1884.

C.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

THE CALCUTTA GAZETTE of 28th May last contains an interesting Resolution of Government on the Report of the Alipore Reformatory School for 1883. It appears from the resolution that the institution has begun to bear good fruit and has turned out in a style from which its success may very well be predicted. The best test of the efficiency of such schools is afforded by the manner in which the released conduct themselves in after life, and we are glad to find that 52 Magistrates out of 58 who reported on the conduct of the released boys, speak well of them. During the year under report there were 79 inmates at the school of whom 43 were Hindus and 36 Mussulmans. It is satisfactory to find that the young folks behaved themselves decently during the year, as the number of corporeal punishments fell from 4·7 in 1882 to 3·4, and the offences for which they were punished were as the resolution says, very light and such as might be expected from boys. The earnings of the boys, amounted to Rs. 83-11-6, that is a trifle over those of the preceding year. The health of the place was remarkably good during 1883, the admissions into hospital having fallen from 2·90 in 1882 to 1·26. The cost of maintenance has risen from Rs. 132 odd to Rs. 163-12 per head. This increase was owing to the maintenance of a costly establishment and the reduced average of boys in 1883. The advance made in the department of trade is very encouraging and reflects credit on the superintendent. Notwithstanding the decrease in numbers the income of that department shews an increase of Rs. 672 over that of 1882. The instruction that is imparted to the boys in the several branches of their study, though only elementary, will, from its practical nature, do more good to the recipients than mere theoretical teaching. It seems that Mr. Kirschner, the Superintendent, was hard at his work and his labour, we are glad to say, has met with success.

THE EAST BENGAL LANDHOLDER'S ASSOCIATION has memorialised the Bengal Government for the reduction of the fee fixed by the Board of Revenue in their circular No. 8 of August 1882 leviable on notices and processes for the realisation of the Road Cess and for the amalgamation of the Road Cess Office Nazirat with that of the collectorate. The arguments they have adduced in support of their contention are very cogent and clearly show the injustice of the measures. They contend that by Sec. 97 of the Cess Act of 1880 the peons maintained on the Road Cess establishment were utilised for serving notices and processes with or without cost to the parties concerned, but when any costs were realised they were credited to the R. C. Fund. By virtue of the authority conferred on the Board of Revenue by Sec. 106 cl: (b) of the said Act, they fixed the fee at 8 ans. on each fee-paying process to include all charges, boat-hire &c. and the circular referred to above upsets the whole procedure on the ground that "the classes of notice of which the costs are recoverable from the parties concerned on account of the District Road Fund are, however, not notices issued under the Cess Act, but they are issued under the Public Demands Recovery Act, VII (B. C.) of 1880." Para 4 of the circular enhances the fee to Re 1 per each process, a sum far above the legitimate expense required for the purpose and this fee has been made payable in advance in "Court Fee stamps" for the purchase of which a permanent advance of Rs. 100 has been allowed in every District. The effects of this change will be (1) to double the cost of serving notices and processes; (2) to inflict loss on the District Road Fund by making it to pay "in advance in Court Fee stamps", costs which are not always realised in full; and (3) to cause Government to participate in the increased revenue from the sale of stamps. Indeed, the effects are disastrous, and the figures which the memorialists have quoted for the District of Dacca only show what enormous drain is being made on the Road Cess Fund of every District of Bengal, Behar and Orissa. The Association has prayed for a reduction of the present high rate of fee to its original limit and if possible for a further reduction of the original fee also.

We give our unqualified support to the memorial and hope that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor will take up the matter in right earnest and find his way to meet the wishes of the memorialists. We say, *en passant*, that the fee fixed by the Board in its Cir No. 8 of 1882 is highly exorbitant and its reduction is very desirable and that the money which should go to the R. C. Fund ought not to be allowed to stray from its original destination.

BENGAL has lost another worthy son! Dr. Udoy Chand Dutt, Civil Medical Officer, Serampore, is dead! He died suddenly of heart disease on the morning of the 5th instant. Born in 1834 and educated first at the Oriental Seminary and then at the Hare School, he completed his academical education at the Calcutta Medical College, where he passed the final examination with great distinction, obtaining the first deploma and the Gold Medal of his year (1855). He was at once appointed a Sub-Assistant Surgeon and served in that capacity at Tumlook, Gya and Bhagulpore. During this period he so distinguished himself, that in 1866 he was appointed Civil Medical Officer of Puri. He was thus the first Sub-Assistant Surgeon, who became the Chief Medical Officer of a district; and in this capacity he served successively at Puri, Purulia, Noakhali, Maldah and Furridpore before his appointment to the important station of Serampore. While at Purulia his comprehensive report on sanitation in Bengal attracted the special attention of Government. Beginning his sanscrit studies at Puri, he became in the course of a few years well-versed in the Hindu system of medicine and translated the Nidan into Bengali. But the work for which he will be long remembered is his English treatise on the Materia Medica of the Hindus, published in 1877. This work was favourably received both here and in England. He was engaged in an English translation of the Susruta at the request of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, but it has not pleased Providence to permit him to fulfil the task. Dr. Udoychand was a self-made man. Left a poor orphan at the early age of seven, he rose by his individual efforts to the proud position he occupied. He was not only a good English scholar and a master of the healing art, but a man that inspired esteem and affection. Those who had the honor of his acquaintance know what an earnest worker, honest thinker, and thorough and amiable gentleman he was. His death is mourned by a large circle of friends and relatives and admirers.

WE HAVE received the following letter from an esteemed correspondent on the subject of the assault on the Hon'ble Mr. Amir Ali:

I am extremely sorry to find that your contemporary of the *Indian Mirror* has started a most novel theory about the unfortunate case of assault on the Hon'ble

Mr. Ameer Ali. The *Mirror* suspects the dastardly attack was the result of a conspiracy and the outcome of resentment for opinions expressed by that gentleman in his place in Council and in the English Press. That on important questions of principle or measures of legislation individual views should diverge was but natural, but it was reserved for your contemporary to convert a ruffianly attack into political capital and to attribute it to political opposition. The logic by which he sustains his suspicions is as remarkable as any that history records in periods of great party excitement. To conclude that a native gentleman of great popularity was subjected to violence because he vigorously supported the Rent Bill would be to reason with almost as much accuracy as to conclude that the sad murder of Lord Mayo was the deliberate act of the Mahomedan population of India. The *Mirror's* imagination is most pitiously excited by certain words used in an article published in the *Indian Chronicle* in October last. Words which any man would ordinarily understand at once when applied to a member of the bar who had to depend for his professional income and success upon the support of a constituency which is largely composed of landed proprietors, words which Mr. Ameer Ali himself would never have dreamt of as conveying a threat of personal violence to him, are raked up from the ashes of the past and pressed into service to prop up an extraordinary hypothesis and then our contemporary gravely shakes his head and says it has been reported to him that a Behari Mooktar of the High Court paid down the fine imposed upon Lallji Singh. Verily history repeats itself and the state of the popular mind under the influence of which Catholics were charged as having caused the great fire of London finds individual development even in India. While therefore I express my grave regret that the sentence pronounced by Mr. Henderson is wholly inadequate to meet the ends of justice and at the same time court the fullest enquiry into all the circumstances of the case. I must say that I am extremely pained at the attitude taken up in this matter by your contemporary and apparently with the approbation of so esteemed and impartial a journal as the *Statesman*.

The *Bengalee* seems to be of the same opinion. After quoting the *Mirror* and the *Chronicle* our contemporary says :

This was written in the early part of October 1883. The assault takes place on the 30th May 1884, and it really requires a very strong effort of the imagination to suppose that it was fore-shadowed in the writings of the *Chronicle* some eight months back. Again the simple character of the assault, however wanton and unprovoked it might have been, affords the strongest refutation of the hypothesis suggested by our worthy contemporary. In conclusion, let us assure him that our political activity has not yet reached that stage of development, where an honest difference of opinion is to be met by a dastardly attack upon our life and person.

While we highly appreciate Mr. Amir Ali, we loudly condemn Mr. Henderson's foolish sentence, and readily join in the recommendation for an enquiry, into the matter suggested by the *Mirror*, we confess we are not prepared to make a political hero of any man lightly or fancifully.

A NEW BOOK has just come to hand. It is entitled "Archæology in India, with especial reference to the works of Babu Rajendralala Mitra," and it comes from the pen of no less an author than "James Fergusson, C.I.E., F.R.S., D.C.L., L.L.D., V.-P.R.A.S., &c." It is a running tirade, a filthy current of rancorous abuse, a ceaseless diabetes of senile acerbity, against Dr. Mitra, General Cunningham, Mr. Growse and all and sundry who have ever ventured to differ in opinion from the redoubtable ex-Indigo Planter and Archæologist. In so far the work is utterly worthless, and calls for no notice ; but it has a pecularity of its own. To quote its own profession—

The real interest, however, of the volume—if any—(how modest is the qualifying phrase)—will probably be found to reside, not in the analysis of the archæological works of Baboo Rajendralala Mitra, but, in these days of discussions on Ilbert Bills, in the question as to whether the natives of India are to be treated as equal to Europeans in all respects. Under present circumstances it cannot fail to interest many to dissect the writings of one of the most prominent members of the native community that we may lay bare and understand his motives and modes of action, and thus ascertain how far Europeans were justified in refusing to submit to the jurisdiction of natives in criminal action. (p. VI)

There ! It is then this hoddy-doddy of a pervert Doctor that has set the Thames on fire, and the matter has been made all the worse, because his "mode of reasoning and the English in which it is expressed are wonderfully correct for a man writing in a foreign tongue, and dealing with a subject with which he had no previous acquaintance." (p. 99). The author has made another discovery, and an even more remarkable one it is. Though Lord Lytton did not find it out, the fact remains that Dr. Mitra's 'Antiquities of Orissa' and 'Buddha-Gaya,' contained the bulk of the sedition which necessitated the Press Gag of 1878. Says Mr. Furgusson—

"The Act has since been repealed, in whole or in part, and I have no means of knowing how far its action tended to repress the public expression of the slanderous attacks against which it was directed. But the feeling remains, and it may consequently be interesting to present to the public a portrait of one of the best and most typical of the class. If it is well drawn and a good likeness, politicians, even in this country, will be able to understand why Europeans in India object to be governed by Bengalis, and why all this agitation has arisen about what to them appears an infinitesimal grievance. Though Indian Archæology may be considered as beneath the attention of the English public, the Ilbert Bill is certainly not so, and no means of bringing it home, and rendering it intelligible to the masses, appears to me so appropriate as examining a typical specimen of one of the proposed class of Governors, and seeing what stuff they are made of. For this purpose there is probably no example so suitable as Babu Rajendralala. He has written in English more, and under more favourable circumstances, than any native of Bengal, and has consequently, laid his aspirations (*sic*) his mode of attaining them more bare than any of his *confreres*, so that out of his own mouth it will be easy to judge how far the class to which he belongs are worthy of the confidence it is proposed to repose in them." (pp. 4,5.)

What a pity it is that these discoveries were not made a little earlier! It would have saved *Britannicus* the trouble of writing continuously for a whole year—it would have made Ilbert & Co. gracefully bow down before the inevitable—it would have made Lords Northbrook and Kimberley draw in their horns—it would have obviated the necessity of sending Mr. Atkins, the working-men's representative, to England, had people only unearthed this fossil Panjandrum from the bottom of an Indigo vat to do the needful for them ! But badinage apart, how sadly do some old people lose their head, and yet live on as repulsive concretions of envy, malice and all uncharitableness forfeiting every claim to consideration for advanced age !

DURING those scorching months of the year when sinful mortals pant and toil in the world below, a beneficent fate provides celestial palaces of rest for the resplendent deities who resolve around imperial Jove and preside over the fair domains assigned to them by his high decree.

In these pleasant retreats far away from the din of pestilential cities and smoky towns junior Jupiters seek a respite from the cares of state and the howls of an insatiable Press.

Fanned by winds whose breath is balm, capped in the eternal snows of a Darjeeling or an Ootakamund, and surrounded by every comfort which art can invent or nature bestow, these abodes of the blest justly excite admiration and inspire a sense of the grand and the beautiful, there, rest is the rule and business comes as a recreation, there the complaints of the oppressed, and the tales of woe, big bothering memorials, and petitions which destroy the soul's peace are wafted, softly broken by distance and concentrated into official *precis*. August Heads of departments play Lords in waiting with their numerous establishments and make society in the solitude of the Hills, willing and able Secretaries digest, reflect, think and compose for their *chefs de service* and do all but the tremendous labor, the last Crowning Act of signing away. Morse like Minerva of old carries messages to and fro the Indian *Agni* Europeanized by Stephenson Acts as an humble *serviteur* and supplies saloons for locomotion, fetes and festivities recur in quick succession and thus wings the course of time, while Terra measures by wretched months and days, the period of her penance.

But alas ! even in sacred Olympian heights slumbers may be rudely broken and sorrows may return, crops will fail, famines occur, wicked men die of starvation and pity of pities, perverse Municipal Commissioners sue for wrongful dismissal, perhaps then Jove's deputies may awake or descend to the plains and again bless the gaze of subject realms, but happily for the peace of the immortal hierarchy, such sad mishaps are but rare and never prove a permanent element of disturbance ; famines may be vanquished and districts toured in no time and the gods may relapse into repose and enjoy it with the keen relish of whetted appetite.

Darlington's Pain-Curer has been found to be a certain cure for Pains on the Back, Lumbago, Pains in the Chest, Sore Throats, Coughs, Colds, Tightness of the Chest, Bronchitis, Diptheria, Headache, Toothache, Neuralgia, Colics, Rheumatism, Paralysis, Pains in the Groins, Contracted Joints, Gout, Sciatics Bad Legs, Bad Breasts, Swellings, Old Sores, Ulcers Piles, Ringworm, Pimples, Freckles, & Eruptions on the Skin. May be had retail or wholesale, direct from their establishment, 49, Dhurrumtollah Street, Calcutta, ☞ Examine the bottle, and see it has the Seal, Label, and Wrapper of Darlington & Co. ☜

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

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Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette,—*4th June* 1884.

General-15th May—Baboo Bhugwan Chunder Bose, Deppy Magte and Depy Colr, Hooghly, to perform the functions of a Colr, under sect 4 of Act VII, B C, of 1880, in that dist.

22nd May—Baboo Satya Taran Mookerjee, Tempy Sub-Depy Colr Hazaribagh, leave for two months and fifteen days from date he may avail himself of it.

26th May—Baboo Khudiram Poddar, Tempy Sub-Depy Corl Bagirhat Khoolna leave for three months from date he availed himself of it.

27th—May-Mr A Beroonh J Magte and Depy Colr Jessore to act as Magte and Colr of Noakholly during absence of Mr J A Hopkins.

Baboo Jogendro Nath Gupta, Sub-Manager of the Jellamutha and Majnamutha estates in Midnapore leave for three months from 25th June 1884 or subsequent date.

28th May—Baboo Ramakhoy Chatterjee Depy Magte and Colr Cutwa Burdwan is transfd to Tipperah and posted to the sudder station of that dist.

Baboo Radha Madhub Bose Depy Magte and Depy Colr on leave to have charge of the Cutwa sub-divn of the Burdwan dist.

1st May—Baboo Hurish Chunder Banerjee Special Depy colr under the P W Dept (Railway Branch) of this Govt vested with the powers of a Colr under Act X of 1870 in Furreedpur.

Mr T E Coxhead Offg Magte and Colr Burdwan leave for three months from 29th July next or subsequent date.

Mr F H McLaughlin Offg Dist and Sess Judge of Pubna leave for one month and fifteen days from date he may be relieved.

Mr W H Page Offg Dist and Sess Judge of Bhagulpore, to act as Dist and Sess Judge of Pubna during absence of Mr F H McLaughlin.

2nd June—The services of Babu Kedar Nath Dutt, Depy Magte and Depy Colr Satkhira Khoolna, are placed temply at the disposal of the Board of Revenue for employment on land rgeistration work in Calcutta.

Baboo Saroda Prosad Sircar Depy Magte and Depy Colr Jessore to have charge of the Satkhira sub-divn of the Khoolna dist during absence on deputn of Baboo Keder Nath Dutt.

Mr J T Jarbo Offg Depy Magte and Depy Colr Nuddea is transfd to Jessore and posted to the Sudder station of of that dist.

Police 20—May Mr C H Parish Offg Asst Supdt of Police is posted to Dacca from date he joined that dist.

22nd May—Mr H G Wilkins Offg Depy Comr of Police Calcutta leave for three months from 3rd July next or subsequent date.

Ecclesiastical 23rd May—Dr Poresh Nath Chatterjee to be Regtr of Marriages under act 111 of 1872 for Bhagulpore.

29th May—Baboo Nibaran Chunder Mookerjee to be Marriage Regtr under Act 111 of 1872 for Bhagulpore.

Education 23rd May The following gentlemen to be Members of the Dist School Committee of Rungpore:—

Baboo Kamykha Charan Mookerjee, Sheristader,

Baboo Ram Chunder Chatterjee, Head master, Normal School.

Baboo Annada Prosad Sen.

Customs—30th May—Mr S J Killy reported his departure from India on furlough on 7th inst.

Opium—27th May—Mr W Cracroft, Sub-depy Opium Agent, Allahabad, leave for three months' from date he may avail himself of it.

Mr H F Drummond, Asst Sub-Depy Opium Agent, Monghyr, Behar Agency, to Act as Sub-Depy Opium Agent. Fyzabad, in the Benares Agency, during absence of Mr W D Ridsdale.

Medical—22nd May—Asst Surg Bejoy Gobind Chowdry in medl charge of the Chartiable Dispensary at, and of the Sub Divn of, Jungypore, during absence of Asst Surg Bejoy Gobiud Chowdry.

Asst Surg Sasi Bhoosun Mookerjee a Superny at the Presidency, is to have medl charge of the Charitable Dispensary at, and of the Sub-divn of, Jungypore, during absence of Asst Surg Bejoy Gobind Chowdry.

27th May—Asst Surg Koonja Behary Nundy, in medl charge of the Oooloberiah sub-divn Howrah, leave for two months; from date he may be relieved.

Asst Surg Khagendro Nath Sen, a Superny at Midanpore, temply to have medl charge of the Oolooberiah sub-divn, Howrah, during absence of Asst Surg Koonja Behary Nundy.

26th May—Asst Surg Rajmohun Banarjee, Senr Demonstrator of Anatomy, Calcutta Medical College, held charge of the office of the Resident Physician, Medl College Hospital, Calcutta, from 24th March 1884 to 2nd April 1884, inclusive, vice Surg L A Waddell, on leave.

2nd June—Surg F W Wright, in medl charge, 33rd N I, to have medl charge of the civil station of Buxa, Julpigoree, in addn to his own duties, vice Surg E Cretin.

Asst Surg Dino Bundhoo Dutt is confirmed in his apptmt as Medl Officer in charge of the Engineering college, Seebpore.

Municipal—25th May—The Lieut-Govr approves the re-election by the Comrs of the Lalbagh Municipality in Moorshedabad of Baboo Bungshi Dhur Rai to be their Vice-chairman.

The Lieut-Govr approves the re-election by the Comrs of the Baidoorie Municipality in 24-Pergns of Babu Upendro Nath Ray chowdry to be their Vice-Chairman.

25th May—The Lieut-Govr approves the election by the Comrs of the Arrah Municipality, in Shahabad, of Mr H W C Carnduff, Asst Magte and Colr, to be their Vice-Chairman.

Road Cess-30th—May C A Leicester to be a member of the Noakholly Dis road Committee, vice Moulvie Abdul Huq Khan, resigned.

Notification-2nd June—The following report of the resul of the half-yearl Deptl Exam of Abt Magtes and othet, helt on 25th April, 1884, and the follwing days, is publiehedd for general information:—

Second or Hither Standard—The follwing Officers who had passed partially at previous exams, have new passed in the remaining subjects mentioned opposite their names:—

Civil Officers—Tr E G Colvin, Hindustani and Accounts,; Babu Chunder Bhoosun Chuckerbutty, Hinpustana; Babu Annada Prosad Ghose, Hindustani, and Baboo Mokunda Deb Mookerjee, Hindustani.

The following Officers have passed partially, and are still liable to exam in the remaining subjects mentioned below:—

Civil Officers.

Baboo Sitikant Ghose, now passed in Bengali, still liable to exam in Law Accts, and Hindustani, at option, by the higher Standard, and Law and Accounts by the Lower Standard.

Baboo Suresh Chunder Dass, now passed in Accts, still liable to exam in law, and Hindustani at option.

Mr W Tennon, now passed in Law, still liable to exam in Bengali Accts, and Hindustani.

Mr P H O' Brien, now passed in Accts, still liable to exam in Law.

Baboo Poorna Chunder Gupta now passed in Law, still liable to exam in Hindustani at option.

Mr D Sunder, now passed in Bengali, still liable to exam in Law, and Hindustani at option.

Mr H P Todd-Naylor, now passed in Hindustani still liable to exam in Law.

Mr A W R Cadell now passed in Hindustani and Accts, still liable to exam in Law and Bengali.

Mr H W C Carduff, now passed in Hindustani and Accts' still liable to exam in Law and Bengali.

Mr H H Birch, now passed in Hindustani, still liable to exam in Law. Accts, and Bengali at option.

Mr F C Gates, now passed in Hindustani, still liable to exam in Law.

Police Officers.

Mr F E Kemp, now passed in Hindustani, still liable to exam in Law and Bengali.

Mr L St J Brodrick, now passed in Bengli, still liable to exam Law and Hindustani.

Advertisements.

Notice.

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NOTIFICATION.

To be peremptorily sold by L. P. D. Broughton and Robert Belchambers Esqs., the Commissioners of partition appointed under a Decree dated the 6th of January 1881 and made by the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal in its Ordinary Original Civil Jurisdiction in the Goods of Prince Golam Mahommed deceased and in suit No. 746 of 1876 [wherein Shahzadah Ahmed Halimazoomann the son of the deceased abovenamed is Plaintiff and Shahzadee Kurreemun nessa Begum the daughter of the deceased abovenamed, Imtazoon nessa Begum the widow of the deceased abovenamed, Mahatollah Bibee who claims to be a widow of the said deceased Shahzadah Mahommed Furrock Shah, son of the Plaintiff and grandson of the said deceased, Shahzadah Mahommed Nusseerooddeen Hyder the son of Shahzadee Omdah Begum deceased and grandson of the said deceased abovenamed, and Fuckroom nessa Begum, Fuckur Jehan Begum, Rookea Begum, Secunder Begum, Hossein Jehan Begum and Fuzloon nessa Begum the grand-daughters of the said deceased above named are defendants] and under an order of the said Court made in the said suit and dated the 10th of January 1884, at the Administrator General's Office on the top floor of the Court House, at the hour of 12'0 clock, noon, on Wednesday the 11th of June 1884; the following valuable property in the business part of the city belonging to the said estate of the said Prince Golam Mahommed, and which is well worthy the attention of capitalists.

All that three-storied house godowns and premises numbered 1 and 2 (formerly numbered 4 and 5) Church Lane, now occupied partly by Messieurs Sanderson and Co. and partly by Mr. Bruce Ellis and Shaik Seconder at rents at present aggregating Rupees 1,100 per mensem, together with the land or group thereunto belonging and on part whereof the same are erected and built containing by estimation two Biggahs one Cattah and 12½ chittacks and butted and bounded as follows, on the north by Hare Street, on the south by the premises lately occupied by Messieurs Moran & Co., on the east by Church Lane and on the west by Metcalf Hall or the public Library.

The abstract of Title and Conditions of sale may be seen at the Office of Baboo Gonesh Chunder Chunder, Attorney for the Plaintiff at No. 5 Hastings Street, on any day before the sale and will be produced at the sale.

(Sd.) GONESH CHUNDER CHUNDER.
Plaintiff's Attorney.

The 20th June 1884.

CLEARANCE SALE OF BOOKS.

NEW BOOKS.—Mayne's Commentaries on the Indian Panal Code last edition Rs. 13-8. Grady's Hindu law of Inheritance Rs. 8. Duff's Maharatta, Bombay in 1 Vol. Rs. 4-8. Laili and Majnu from the Original Persian of Nezami London 1836, Rs. 4.—Almost unused.—Tagore Lectures 1870,-71. Rs. 14. 1877, 78, 79, each Rs. 7. 1880 Rs. 13.—Calcutta Review.—Numbers, 17, 20, 22, 23, 26, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 56, 67, 69, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 79, 81, 82, 83, 86, 88, 93, 106, 115, 135 137, 140, 141, 142, 143, together 8 ans each or single number 1 Re. Life of Major Cavagnari, Rs. 1-8.—Second-hand Books.—Clark's digest of Bengal Regulations 1793 to 1854, 2 vols. folio Rs. 8. Fitzjames Stephen's Indian Evidence Act. 1872, Rs. 2-8. O'kinealy Indian Penal Code, 1869, Rs. 3, Madras High Court Reports in pt. Rs., 50.

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ENGLISH REPORTS—Chancery, Peere Williams 1695 to 1736, 3 Vols. Rs. 8. King's Bench, Dunford and East 1785 to 1800, 8 vols. 16. East, 1801 to 1812, 16 vols, Rs. 32, Lindley's Law of Partnership, second edition 2 vols Rs. 15. Smith's Leading Cases, third edition 2 vols Rs. 10, Seton, on Decrees, third edition, 2 vols. Rs. 10. Pollock, Principles, of Contract at Law and Equity, second edition, Rs. 8. Kerr on Injunction Rs. 8. Kerr on Receiver Rs. 2, Lewins Law of Trusts of sixth edition Rs. 8, Benjamin on Sales Rs. 6.—Sandars Institutes of Justinian Rs. 4. Prichard digest of the Law and Practice of the Court for Divorce and Metrimonial Causes Rs. 6.

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শ্রীমতী জগৎলক্ষ্মী ঘোষ

[redacted]হির সিমলা, ২১০।১ কর্ণওয়ালিশ ষ্ট্রীট,

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